## ABSTRACT

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A processing system is provided that detects an object of interest. The system receives an input image of the object. At least one feature is extracted from the input image. The extracted feature is then used to determine a set of candidate models by filtering out image models that do not contain the extracted feature. A sample image template is then formed based on a candidate sample image. The object of interest is then detected by comparing the input image to the sample image template. In a preferred embodiment, the formation of the template further includes calculating a parameter, such as direction, expression, articulation or lighting, of the object.